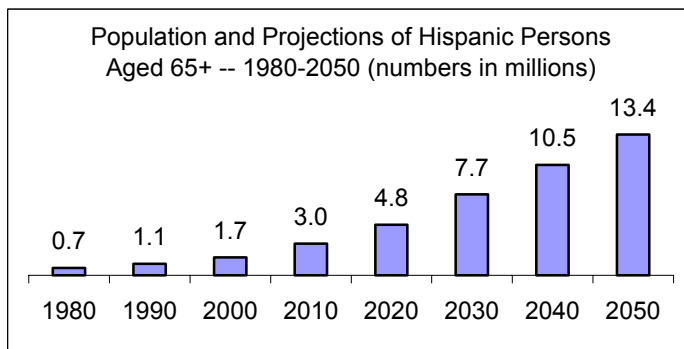


United States Department of Health and Human Services
Administration on Aging
A Statistical Profile of Hispanic Older Americans Aged 65+

Introduction

Nearly 35 million Americans are age 65 and over. Three in five people in this age group are women. Over the next forty years, the number of people age 65 and older is expected to double and the number of people age 85 and older is expected to triple. Along with general trends for America's population, Hispanic populations are living longer.

The Older Hispanic Population: Past, Present, and Future



The Hispanic older population was 1.7 million in 2000 and is projected to grow to over 13 million by 2050. In percentage terms, the 2000 Hispanic persons made up 5.6 percent of the older population. By 2050, the percentage of the older population that is Hispanic is projected to account for 16 percent of the older population. By 2028, the Hispanic population age 65 and older is projected to be the largest racial/ethnic minority group in the 65+ age group.

Educational Level

Despite the overall increase in educational attainment among older Americans, there are still substantial educational differences among racial and ethnic groups. In 1998, about 29 percent of the Hispanic older population age 65 and older had finished high school, compared with 67 percent of the total older population. Also in 1998, 5.4 percent of Hispanic older Americans had a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with 14.8 percent of all older persons.

Living Arrangements

In 1998, 67 percent of Hispanic older men lived with their spouses, 15 percent lived with other relatives, 4 percent lived with non-relatives, and 14 percent lived alone. For the total older population, 73 percent of older men lived with their spouses, 7 percent lived with other relatives, 3 percent lived with non-relatives, and 17 percent lived alone.

Older women are more likely to live alone than are older men. In 1998, 41 percent of older Hispanic women lived with a spouse, 34 percent lived with other relatives, 2 percent lived with other relatives, and 27 percent lived alone. For the total older population, 41 percent of older women lived with spouses, 17 percent lived with other relatives, 2 percent lived with non-relatives, and 41 percent lived alone.

Poverty

The poverty rate in 1998 for Hispanic elderly (65+) was 21 percent which is twice the percent for the total older population.

Self – Rated Health Status

During the period 1994 to 1996, about 65 percent of Hispanic women and men reported good to excellent health. Among the total 65+ population, this figure was 72 percent. Positive health evaluations decline with age. Among Hispanic men ages 65-74, 69 percent reported good to excellent health, compared with 51 percent among Hispanic men age 85 or older. A similar decline with age was reported by Hispanic women, from 65 percent at age 65-74 to 55 percent at age 85 or older.

Access to Medical Care

In 1996, about 3 percent of Hispanic older persons reported that they had difficulty in obtaining medical care; 7 percent reported delays in obtaining health care due to cost, and 3 percent reported that were unsatisfied with the health care which they received. The comparable figures for the total population aged 65 or older were 2 percent reported that they had difficulty in obtaining medical care, 6 percent reported delays in obtaining health care due to cost, and 3 percent reported that were unsatisfied with the health care which they received.

Participation in Older Americans Act Programs

In 2000, state and Area agencies on aging provided services to a total of 6,992,784 persons age 60 and older. Consistent with the targeting requirements of the OAA, the “aging network” placed considerable emphasis on services to persons with the greatest social and economic need, including members of racial and ethnic minority groups, especially those who are poor. Among the OAA Title III service recipients, 5.7 percent were Hispanic elderly.

Most of this data is adapted from Older Americans 2000: Key Indicators of Well-Being, Appendix A: Detailed Tables. (See: <http://www.agingstats.gov>.) Data are from a variety of sources with differing sample sizes and designs. The last section, Participation in Older Americans Act Programs, provides data collected from State Units on Aging about persons served with Older Americans Act funds.